



wherein R is an optionally substituted C1-C12 alkyl group, an optionally substituted C4-C8 cycloalkyl group or an optionally substituted C6-C14 aryl group,

^{E1} said method comprising reacting a biological material with a racemic mixture of said optical isomers I and II, wherein said biological material converts an optical isomer I of said amino acid to an optical isomer II, the isomerism being on the basis of an asymmetric carbon atom to which both of an amino group and a carboxyl group are bound and said conversion being not inhibited seriously by an amino acid transferase inhibitor β -chloro-D-alanine, β -chloro-L-alanine or gabaculine, and isolating said optical isomer II,

wherein said biological material is one obtained from a microorganism belonging to the genus *Arthrobacter*, *Klebsiella*, *Nocardia*, *Rhizobium*, *Saccharopolyspora* or *Streptomyces*.

^{E2} 19. (amended) The method according to Claim 16, wherein said optical isomer I is a D-form and said optical isomer II is a L-form.

^{E3} 21. (amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein said biological material is one obtained from a microorganism classified to *Arthrobacter pascens*, *Flavimonas oryzihabitans*, *Klebsiella planticola*, *Nocardia diaphanozonaria*, *Pseudomonas chlororaphis*, *Pseudomonas oleovorans*, *Pseudomonas oxalaticus*, *Pseudomonas taetrolens*, *Rhizobium meliloti*, *Saccharopolyspora hirsuta* or *Streptomyces roseus*.

E³ 22. (amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein said biological material is one obtained from *Arthrobacter pascens* strain IFO12139, *Flavimonas oryzihabitans* strain JCM2952, *Klebsiella planticola* strain JCM7251, *Nocardia diaphanozonaria* strain JCM3208, *Pseudomonas chlororaphis* strain IFO3521, *Pseudomonas oleovorans* strain IFO13583, *Pseudomonas oxalaticus* strain IFO13593, *Pseudomonas taetrolens* strain IFO3460, *Rhizobium meliloti* strain IFO14782, *Saccharopolyspora hirsuta subsp.kobensis* strain JCM9109 or *Streptomyces roseus* strain IFO12818.

Please add the following new claims:

E⁴ 23. (new) The method according to claim 10, wherein said optical isomer I reacted with said biological material is contained in a racemic mixture of said optical isomers I and II.
